

CLAIMS

1-18 (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A method for recording and reviewing actions performed during development of software content created using a tool on a computer system having a processor and memory, said method comprising:
- receiving one or more user events during the development of the software content;
 - determining, automatically by the computer system in response to receiving the one or more user events, which events and sequences of events constitute actions;
 - determining, by the computer system, whether an explanation accompanies an action;
 - recording the determined actions during the development of the software content if a user preference specifies that the determined actions are to be recorded; and
 - recording the determined explanations such that a recorded explanation of a recorded action is associated with the recorded action.
20. (Previously presented) A method as defined in claim 19, said method further comprising:
- receiving a user request for playback of recorded actions;
 - accessing recorded actions and associated recorded explanations; and
 - playing back recorded actions and any associated recorded explanations.

21. (Previously presented) A method as defined in claim 19, wherein said determining whether an explanation accompanies an action includes prompting a user for an explanation with respect to an action being recorded.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon instructions for causing a computer to perform the following method comprising:

displaying a starting state of multimedia content;

determining automatically, by the computer, which recorded actions satisfy a specified criteria;

identifying automatically, by the computer, a plurality of redundant determined recorded actions;

summarizing automatically, by the computer, the plurality of redundant determined recorded actions to generate a summarized determined recorded action;

replacing automatically, by the computer, the plurality of redundant determined recorded actions with [[a]] the summarized determined recorded action; and

playing back a sequence of only those determined recorded actions in chronological order on an output device during a development of content.

24. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon instructions for causing a computer to perform a method comprising:
receiving a user event during a development of content;

determining whether said received user event indicates a playback request; and
if said received user event indicates a playback request, then
determining automatically, by the computer, which recorded actions to play back by determining which recorded actions meet a specified criteria,
identifying automatically, by the computer, a plurality of redundant determined recorded actions,
summarizing automatically, by the computer, the plurality of redundant determined recorded actions to generate a summarized determined recorded action,
replacing automatically by the computer, the plurality of redundant determined recorded actions with [[a]] the summarized determined recorded action and
playing back those determined recorded actions and
if said received user event does not indicate a playback request, then determining whether there is an action to record and recording the action if it is determined that there is an action to record during the development of the content.

25. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon instructions for causing a computer to perform the following method comprising:

receiving a user event during a development of content;
determining whether said received user event indicates a playback request; and
if said received user event indicates a playback request, then

determining automatically, by the computer, which recorded actions to play back by determining which recorded actions meet a specified fixed criteria, said fixed criteria being selectable from a plurality of fixed criteria, identifying automatically, by the computer, a plurality of redundant determined recorded actions, summarizing automatically, by the computer, the plurality of redundant determined recorded actions to generate a summarized determined recorded action, replacing automatically, by the computer, the plurality of redundant determined recorded actions with [[a]] the summarized determined recorded action and playing back those determined recorded actions and if said received user event does not indicate a playback request, then determining whether there is an action to record and recording the action if it is determined that there is an action to record during the development of the content.

26. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon executable computer program instructions, the executable computer program instructions including an action class list and, when executed by a digital processing system, causing the system to perform a method for playback of actions from the action class list, wherein:

the action class list comprises a plurality of action class description fields, each action class description field having a first field containing data which specifies a particular action class and a second field

containing data which specifies a generic explanation of the action class specified in the corresponding first field,
wherein the action class list is used during playback of actions, during a development of content,
to identify, automatically, by the digital processing system, a plurality of redundant actions,
to summarize, automatically, by the digital processing system, the plurality of redundant actions to generate a summarized action,
to replace automatically, by the digital processing system the plurality of redundant actions with a summarized action
and
to determine an explanation associated with the action class of each of the actions and to accompany the played back actions with the determined explanations.

27. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium as defined in claim 26 wherein said second field identifies a software routine capable of producing an explanation based upon properties of a recorded action.

28. (Currently amended) A method for playing back actions recorded during development of content created using a tool on a computer system having a processor, memory and an output device, the tool having a user-selectable playback initiating mechanism for initiating the playback, said method comprising:

displaying a starting state of the content; and

playing back recorded actions, during the development of the content, in chronological order on said output device, an action from said recorded actions comprising a sequence of at least one event, wherein said at least one event is selected to constitute said action based on a preset criterion, wherein a plurality of redundant actions are automatically replaced by the computer system with a summarized action and wherein the summarized action is played back instead of the plurality of redundant actions and wherein the summarized action is generated automatically by the computer system.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein:

at least one action from said recorded actions is accompanied by an explanation and said playing back further comprises playing back any associated recorded explanations along with recorded actions.

30. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon instructions for causing a computer to perform the following method comprising:

displaying a starting state of content;
playing back recorded actions, during a development of content, in chronological order on an output device, an action from said recorded actions comprising a sequence of at least one event, wherein said at least one event is selected to constitute said action based on a preset criterion, wherein a plurality of redundant actions are automatically replaced by the computer with a summarized action and wherein the summarized action is played

back instead of the plurality of redundant actions and wherein the summarized action is generated automatically by the computer.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 30, wherein:

at least one action from said recorded actions is accompanied by an explanation and said playing back further comprises playing back any associated recorded explanations along with recorded actions.

32. (Currently amended) An apparatus for playing back actions performed during development of content created using a multimedia creation tool on a computer system having a processor and memory, said apparatus comprising:

a user interface means for receiving user events, during the development of the content, receiving user requests for playback of actions and displaying recorded actions; and

a playback module coupled to said user interface module for receiving user request for playback of recorded actions and for displaying playback of recorded actions, an action from said recorded actions comprising a sequence of at least one event, wherein said at least one event is selected to constitute said action based on a preset criterion, wherein a plurality of redundant actions [[are]] is automatically replaced by the computer system with a summarized action and wherein the summarized action is played back instead of the plurality of redundant actions, said playback in response to such a user request playing back recorded actions and wherein the summarized action is generated automatically by the computer system.

33. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein:

at least one action from said recorded actions is accompanied by an explanation and said playing back further comprises playing back any associated recorded explanations along with recorded actions.

34. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein:

said playback is based on determining automatically which recorded actions satisfy a specified arbitrary criteria.

35. (Currently amended) A method for recording and reviewing actions performed during development of content created using a tool on a computer system having a processor and memory, said method comprising:

receiving user events, during the development of the content;
determining, automatically by the computer system in response to receiving the user events, which events and sequences of events constitute actions; and
recording the determined actions rather than recording the individual events constituting those actions, during the development of the content if a user preference specifies that the determined actions are to be recorded.

36. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon instructions for causing a computer to perform the following method comprising:

receiving user events, during a development of content;

determining, automatically by the computer in response to receiving the user events, which events and sequences of events constitute actions; and

recording the determined actions rather than recording the individual events constituting those actions, during the development of the content if a user preference specifies that the determined actions are to be recorded.

37. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 36, wherein the operations further comprise:

determining whether an explanation accompanies an action; and
recording the determined explanations such that a recorded explanation of a recorded action is associated with the recorded action if a user preference specifies that the action is to be recorded.

38. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 36, wherein:

said determining comprises determining which events and sequences of events constitute actions by applying one of a plurality of granularities, said one of a plurality of granularities being selected based on criteria, whereby said applied one of a plurality of granularities varies depending on the criteria.

39. (Currently amended) An apparatus for recording and reviewing actions performed during development of content created using a tool on a computer system having a processor and memory, said apparatus comprising:

a user interface means for receiving user events which occur during development of content; and
a recorder module comprising hardware coupled to receive user events from said user interface means, said recorder module determining automatically in response to receiving the user events which events and sequences of events constitute actions and recording those actions, if a user preference specifies that those actions are to be recorded, said recorder module capable of recording an explanation for each individual action, said explanations being recorded in a manner which associates a recorded explanation of a recorded action with the recorded action.

40. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the specified criteria is a user specified criteria.
41. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 24, wherein the specified criteria is a user specified criteria.
42. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 25, wherein the specified fixed criteria is a user specified fixed criteria.
43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the preset criterion is a user specified preset criterion.
44. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 30, wherein the preset criterion is a user specified preset criterion.

45. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the preset criterion is a user specified preset criterion.
46. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 38, wherein the criteria is a user specified criteria.
47. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 19, wherein the recorded actions are actions that do not affect the software content.
48. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the recorded actions are actions that do not affect the content.
49. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 24, wherein the recorded actions are actions that do not affect the content.
50. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 25, wherein the recorded actions are actions that do not affect the content.
51. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 26, wherein the played back action is an action that does not affect the content.
52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the recorded actions are actions that do not affect the content.
53. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 30, wherein the recorded actions are actions that do not affect the content.

54. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the recorded actions are actions that do not affect the content.
55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the recorded actions are actions that do not affect the content.
56. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 36, wherein the recorded actions are actions that do not affect the content.
57. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the recorded actions are actions that do not affect the content.